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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Office of Administrator
February 25, 1955

THE REDIRECTED PROGRAM IN HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS RESEARCH

The needs of agriculture and the general public for a strengthened program of food and nutrition research has made necessary some changes in the Department's program of research in human nutrition and home economics. This statement describes the redirected program.

Food and nutrition research will continue to include investigations into the composition and nutritive value of food; human nutritional requirements and the body's response to nutrients, foods, and diets when consumed in varying amounts and proportions; levels of food consumption of individuals and households; the nutritive value of customary diets of selected groups; diet in relation to nutritional state; table quality of food; principles and methods for household processing and storage; and the effective and economical use of food and other family resources for higher levels of living.

Some phases of food and nutrition research will be strengthened. These will be nutritional values of food, human nutritional requirements, consumption of food, and food quality and use, as recommended by research advisory committees.

Studies of the economic problems of rural families will continue. This work, associated with research in food and nutrition, recognizes that management of food on the farm is tied to the family's budgeting of money and time for all needs. These studies will provide periodic reports on the situation and outlook for rural family living and information needed in the farm-home unit program of the Extension Service.

Housing research will be continued to make possible the development of improved designs for kitchens and farmhouses that provide for efficiency in household operation, for liveability, and for economy of construction. Plans and working drawings for farm housing will be developed in cooperation with other research groups and issued through regional plan services.

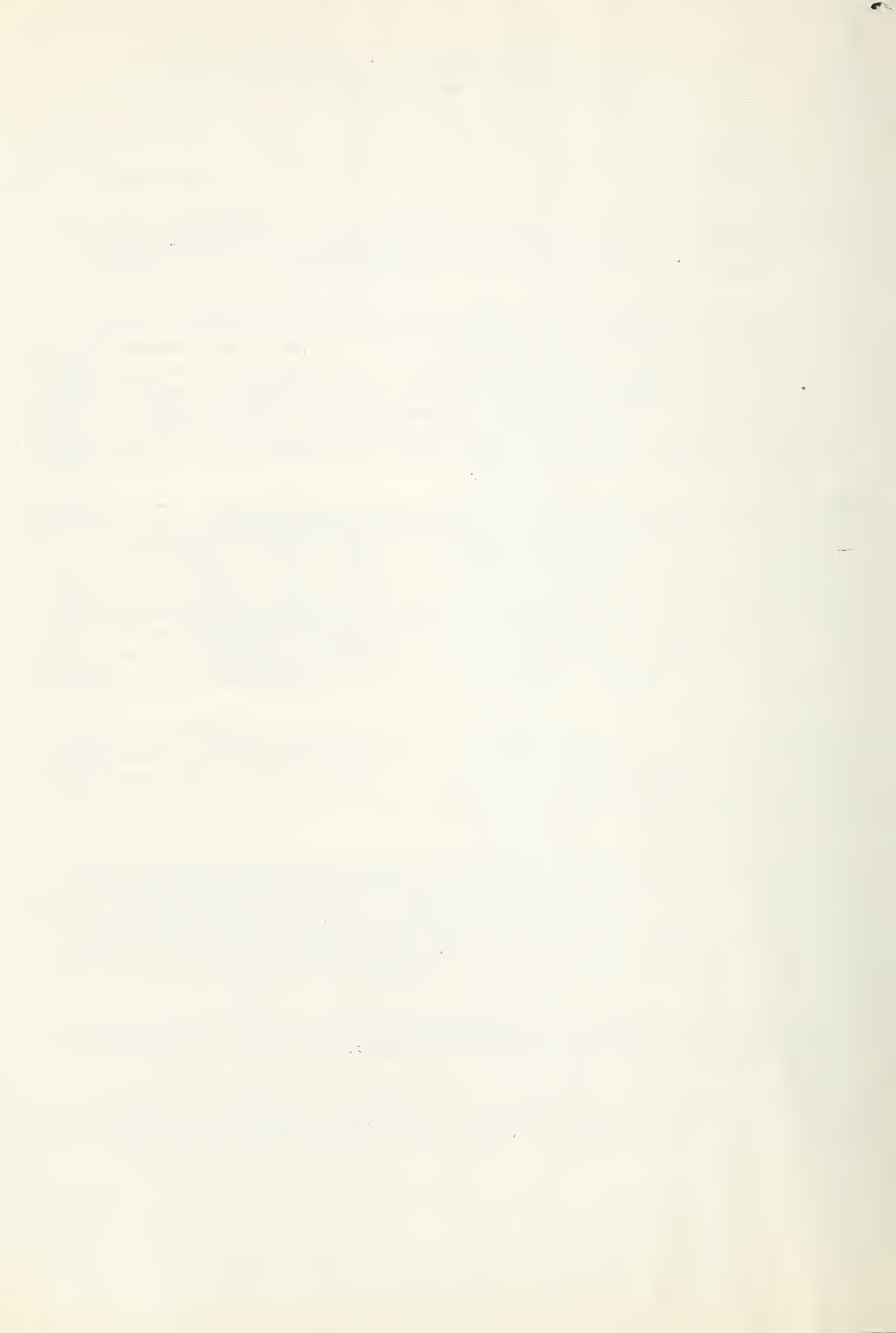
Textile research on fabric quality will continue. Laboratory studies will be made of fabrics to determine their chemical and physical properties. Serviceability under controlled conditions of actual use will be determined for garments and finished articles made from these fabrics. The results of laboratory and serviceability studies will be correlated in order to learn why fabrics behave as they do in wear, and to develop more satisfactory means for predicting their usefulness for specific purposes.

Household equipment research and research on selection, design, construction and maintenance of clothing and household textile articles will be discontinued in an orderly manner before July 1, 1956.

Publications. Results of research will be reported in Government publications and professional and trade journals. Interpretative material and fact sheets will be developed for Extension workers, teachers, and other educational groups.

B. T. Shaw

B. T. Shaw
Administrator



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Office of Administrator
March 31, 1955

REDIRECTED PROGRAM OF RESEARCH IN HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS
(Supplement to February 25, 1955 Statement)

This statement has been prepared to answer some of the questions recently raised regarding the redirected program in human nutrition and home economics research described last month.

Research on economic problems of rural families, on housing, and on fabric quality as well as on foods and nutrition will be continued. Though the economic studies will be associated with the Human Nutrition Research Branch, they will continue to deal with household management problems that are broader than food and will provide reports on the situation and outlook for rural family living and information needed in the farm-home unit program of the Extension Service.

The transfer of economic studies from one research branch to another was made in the interest of improved management of staff and funds, and does not contemplate any curtailment in level of support. Indeed, the funds for these studies will continue at the same level as in recent years. The "87 percent of the budget" referred to in many inquiries provides for economic and nutritional studies of concern to home economists, and not for food research alone. The remaining 13 percent is earmarked for research on housing and on fabric quality.

Though it is planned to shift funds and qualified staff from some lines of work, specifically from household equipment and some phases of textiles and clothing, to research on foods and nutrition, no reduction below the appropriations of recent years is being proposed in the total effort given to research on home economics. The decision to strengthen foods and nutrition research at the expense of certain other lines of work was taken after careful consideration of the needs of agriculture and the general public.

Publications of interest to home economists and homemakers will be prepared on the basis of continuing research. In addition there now are available from the Superintendent of Documents many bulletins and leaflets that were based on the types of research to be discontinued. These include:

- G-4 . Window curtains--planning and selection. 16 pp. 20¢
- G-16 Buying sweaters for the family. 16 pp.
- G-20 How to tailor a woman's suit. 24 pp.
- G-30 Pressure canners--use and care. 6 pp.
- G-31 Buying women's coats and suits. 24 pp.
- G-39 Mending men's suits. 24 pp.
- L251 Child's self-help overall. 4 pp.
- L322 Preventing and removing mildew. Home methods. 10 pp.
- M688 Buying men's suits. 24 pp.
- M687 Home freezers--their selection and use. 16 pp. 10¢

IS-56 How to choose and use your refrigerator. 15 pp.
F1474 Stain removal from fabrics. 30 pp.
F1837 Cotton shirts for men and boys. 14 pp.
F1894 Coat making at home. 27 pp.
F1927 ABC's of mending. 23 pp.
F1954 Making a dress at home. 24 pp.
F1960 Carpet and rug repair. 16 pp.
F1964 Fitting dresses. 30 pp.
F1968 Pattern alteration. 40 pp.

Most of these are now available in sufficient supply to last for some time. If the supply of a particular bulletin becomes exhausted, and there continues to be a strong demand for it, consideration will be given to reprinting it so long as the information is up to date.

Our research program admittedly does not cover work along all lines wanted by home economists. This is due both to the limited funds available for human nutrition and home economics research and to the fact that some subjects are more appropriately studied by private and State agencies than by the Federal Government.

Because of our concern for rural families, we are interested in all phases of home economics research, even though in our circumstances we ourselves are able to undertake research on only some phases. We hope that together, the Federal Government and State and private research groups can provide the necessary basis for strong home economics teaching at all educational levels. We want our part of this research to be as useful as possible. We hope that the American Home Economics Association will continue to bring us the viewpoint of home economists through the advisory committee that it has established.

B. T. Shaw

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Administrator

